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REMARKS

The Applicants' request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 6, and 9-18 are now pending.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Applicants have adopted the Examiner's suggestion to claim the computer program in terms of computer-executable instructions encoded on a computer-readable medium that, when executed by a computer, perform a statutorially-recognized method. Accordingly, Claim 12 satisfies §101.

Claims 1-2, 4-6, and 8-12, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chen et al., U.S. 6,715,098. The remaining independent claims patentably define over Chen at least in the recitation of power supply control to the claimed first maintenance/management processing unit, such that power supply is stopped to the first maintenance/management processing unit when the power supply control unit detects an abnormality of the first maintenance/management processing unit, subsequent to which the second maintenance/management unit is caused to end the standby state and take over maintenance management processing

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for the claimed main machinery section from the first maintenance/management processing unit by rewriting the second logical address assigned to the second maintenance/management processing unit to the first logical address assigned to the first maintenance/management processing unit. By this feature, electric power is always fed to either one of the first or second maintenance/management processing units so that changeover can be accomplished in the event of an abnormality or failure, without requiring notice to the maintenance/management control equipment or special software therefor.

Chen, on the other hand, discloses a system including a primary appliance and a standby appliance for checking the operation of the primary appliance by a health monitor link. In the event of an abnormality in transmission via the link, the standby appliance can be employed in place of the primary appliance. However, Chen neither teaches nor suggests that the unit for feeding electric power to the primary appliance checks the operation thereof, and controls power supply to the primary appliance and standby appliance so that the power supply to the primary appliance is stopped in favor of the standby appliance, all as disclosed and claimed in the present

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application. In this regard, the Applicants note that Chen appears to consider a failure based on power loss to the primary appliance, but the patent does not state that the power supply control unit detects the power failure or shuts down power to the primary appliance in favor of the standby appliance. Rather, Chen discloses that the "shutdown" of the primary appliance is performed on its own by shutting down communication to the standby appliance. Thus, the claims are not met by Chen.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Skogman et al., U.S. 6,625,753. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Hemphill et al., U.S. 6,696,895. Neither Skogman nor Hemphill, however, discloses the power supply detection and control as discussed above, and as set forth in each of the independent claims. Therefore, whether taken individually or in combination with Chen, these references fail to disclose or render obvious the claimed invention.

New independent Claim 13 is based in part on the combination of canceled subject matter from Claims 1 and 5, augmented by power supply and control features discussed

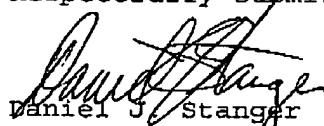
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above. New dependent Claims 14-18 provide further limiting details which add separately patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection, and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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